

THE COLUMNS

March 2024



Join Us...from Anywhere
10:15 am Sunday mornings
www.RichfieldUCC.org

Click on the button that says:

Join Us For Worship

That will take you to a page that says:

Live Streaming Worship

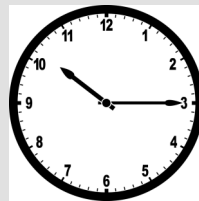
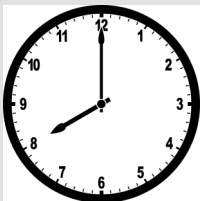
Click on **Live Streaming Worship**
about 5 minutes before the service is to begin.

The Weekly Bulletin is available to
download by clicking on the link
below the live stream button.

You can also view **Recent Services**
Support RUCC from home with **Online Giving**

Join us
for early morning worship
First Sunday of the Month
March 3

Two worship services
available
on one Sunday:
8:00 am and 10:15 am



Easter Events

Our Lenten Program for All Ages

Holy Week Walk

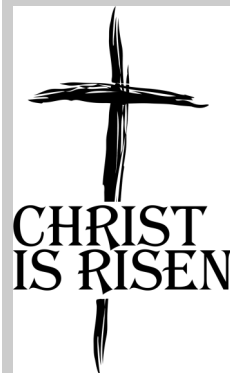
Sunday, March 10 2:00-4:00 pm



Palm Sunday, March 24
Service at 10:15 am



Good Friday, March 29
Service at 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday, March 31
Services at
8:00 am and 10:15 am

Easter Brunch served
between the two services
in the Fellowship Hall.

*A sign-up sheet to help provide
breakfast and brunch items
will be found in the Fellowship Hall
during the month of March.*

From the Pastor



The Mystery of the Resurrection

I remember in the weeks after my Nana died, I thought I saw her everywhere: in a car driving past; walking down the street as I rode in a bus; out of the corner of my eye as I walked along. My brain was eager to deny the reality of her death and so it tried to find her for me. Of course, a second look confirmed it wasn't her, which I already knew. We don't see dead people walking around after death, no matter how much we want it. It looks like them, but a second look and we know it's not.

We might think this same thing happened with the disciples. Maybe their brains wanted to see Jesus so badly that they saw him everywhere and just imagined a resurrection. But the weird thing about the resurrection appearances is that they are the opposite of my experience with my Nana. At first the disciples don't recognize Jesus, but a second look and they realize it is Jesus after all.

Let me refresh your memory on this: Mary Magdalene is weeping in the garden by the empty tomb on the morning of the resurrection. She thinks Jesus is the gardener at first, and only when he says her name does she recognize that it's him. Or take the disciples heading from Jerusalem to Emmaus later on the day of the resurrection. They have a whole conversation with Jesus, and Jesus reveals the meaning of the Old Testament prophecies about himself to them, but they don't recognize him. It's only when Jesus breaks bread with them that they realize who he is. In the upper room on the evening of the resurrection, Jesus appears through a locked door and greets the disciples. But it's only after he shows them the nail holes in his hands and the wound in his side that they recognize it's him. Or, again, the disciples out fishing on the Sea of Galilee a few weeks after the resurrection. They've gone to Galilee because the women at the tomb told them Jesus had promised to meet them there. All night they have caught nothing. A man on shore calls to them and tells them to put their nets down on the right side of the boat. Suddenly they have a huge catch, and it is only then that John recognizes that the man on the shore is Jesus. He says, "It's the Lord", and Peter jumps in the water to swim to Jesus. After they are all ashore, Jesus invites them to breakfast. And the text tells us, strangely, "None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord." Jesus then reinstates Peter. In each case, their first look didn't tell them who Jesus was. It was only with the second look, as it were, when Jesus did something that was personally familiar to them, that they recognized him: Mary heard him say her name; the Emmaus disciples see Jesus break bread like at the Last Supper; the locked room disciples see Jesus' wounds; Peter, James, and John see Jesus repeat the miracle of the fantastic catch of fish that he had performed on the day that he had called them to follow him.

Far from the disciples finding a stranger and thinking it's Jesus, they find Jesus and at first think he's a stranger! It's only after Jesus re-establishes a personal connection that they realize who he is, and their eyes are opened. It's all pretty mysterious, but it rules out the idea that the disciples were just imagining they saw Jesus when it was really someone else. Jesus' resurrection body was somehow transformed but still he makes himself recognizable through his deep personal connections to each disciple.

Is Jesus risen? He is risen indeed.

--Pastor Allan Lane

Moderator's Moment

My life has been so hectic lately. I feel like I'm constantly running – sometimes without any thought as to where I'm going. I'm just trying to keep one step ahead of the next appointment, deadline, family commitment, etc. I'm sure you have all had times like this.

There have been two deaths in my family in the past few weeks. Both required out-of-state travel. We recently decided that paying a housekeeper when there are only 2 retired people living in our house is ridiculous. So, I'm spending a bit more time cleaning – Yuck!!! And I had cataract surgery three times this month. (Yep, one eye had to be done twice!)

The problem with the eye surgeries is that I have a very difficult time waking up after having anesthesia. Each time an eye surgery was performed, I slept 10 to 13 hours. So, basically, I lost a day.

On one of those days, our regular Council meeting was scheduled. The doctor had assured me that they would be reducing the amount of anesthesia used, and he felt I would come out of it much sooner. The meeting would start at 7 pm. I wouldn't be able to drive but I'd be awake enough to participate by ZOOM. No problem...

WRONG! About an hour before the meeting, I realized that I wasn't awake enough to do much of anything. So, in my hazy, sleepy state, I started calling board members to see if they could handle things without me. I was really woozy! I'm not sure how many people I called or who I spoke to, but of course our board members took care of everything. No worries! I want to thank each one of them. It's a reminder that we have the best congregation ever!!! If one of us can't meet an obligation, someone else will step up and cover. Just like a well-tuned machine.

Well, things are returning to normal now. I'm catching my breath and relaxing a bit. But **as always** please keep your Moderator in your prayers. I really appreciate it! Thanks!

--Diana Julien

Stewardship and Administration Board

Some additional wheel-chair seating area is being made available in the sanctuary by removing the small back pew on the piano side. Thanks to Pieter van der Meer for providing the muscle power to relocate the pew.

On a personal note, I wanted to let everyone know how much Kathy and I enjoyed the Youth Group Valentines Dinner Dance. The decorating, food, and music was excellent. Most of the dancing was done by the very energetic youth. Kudos to the Youth Group and youthful adult leaders who put a lot of effort into making it a really fun night-out. 😊

--Dave Hakos, chairman of the S&A Board

Election Day Bake Sale March 19

For the Election Day Bake Sale on March 19, bakers, buyers, pricing help, and packagers are needed ahead of sale day. On sale day we will need sales staff in two-hour shifts.



The bake sale will be held at the back of the sanctuary from 6 till 4 or until supplies run out. Packaging and pricing of sale items will be done Monday night at 6:30 in the kitchen. Please deliver your items to church by 1:00 on Monday. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall prior to the sale.

All monies raised by RUCC & Hobbitts Preschool will be donated to the pavilion project.

The Interfaith Counsel's Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 5

Richfield UCC will again participate in the Interfaith Counsel's Walk for Hunger.

Last year, RUCC was the 3rd largest faith community participant. Our sponsored walkers and non-walker donations were \$2,345.

Join us this year by signing up in the Fellowship Hall with Charlotte Hays. Non-walker donations are also welcomed.

On May 5, registration begins at 2:00 pm and the Walk begins at 3:00 pm.

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church
3300 Morewood Rd, Fairlawn.

Contact Charlotte Hays for further information at 330-665-0307.



Worship and Parish Ministry Board News

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me as the WPM Chair, especially Jean Krankowski who made this look so fun and easy!

Upcoming events to look forward to and BRING FRIENDS

March Feed My Sheep Collection will be snack bars and peanut butter and cheese crackers - examples would be fruit, nut or protein bars that are wrapped individually.

Primary Election Day Bake Sale March 19: please consider baking your favorite treat and delivering it to the kitchen by Monday March 18. Packaging and pricing will occur on Monday evening. Proceeds will go towards completing the Pavilion and the purchase of picnic tables.

Good Friday Service - March 29- 7pm

Easter Sunday Services - March 31 8 am and 10:15 am

Brunch will be served in-between services hosted by WPM. We will place sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast/brunch items. Please consider sharing a dish, joining for the Easter service and bringing family and friends!

Eclipse Party at the Pavilion - Monday, April 8 We are inviting the community to share in our beautiful Pavilion with hot dogs on the grill, snacks and drinks for sale. Eclipse glasses will also be for sale on a first-come first-serve basis. Bring your lawn chair and pray for nice weather! Also, it is the Guardians' home opener, so favorite Guardians attire welcomed.

We have many more exciting events in the works for RUCC! Please join us and don't keep it a secret, tell your friends and family why you love your church!

If you have any ideas that you would like discussed at WPM please feel free to send them to me: Marykeandtodd99@gmail.com or 330-607-4319.

May God Bless You and Keep You! --Maryke Bard

March Collection Contest for Feed My Sheep Ministries

During the month of March we will have a contest between the Piano-side pews and the Organ-side pews in the collection of granola bars, peanut butter crackers and cheese crackers (individually wrapped), for the *Feed My Sheep Ministries*.

Your donations can be placed in the front pews.

Youth Group

The Youth Group wants to thank everyone for their support over the past couple months, as we had a lot going on. At the end of January, we packed up 16 *Boxes of Love* to send to our college students. Those were mailed out just before Valentine's Day and hopefully served as a nice surprise during these dull winter months. We also sold 80 of our delicious Super Bowl subs. Finally, the big event for February was our Valentine's Dinner Dance. We hosted about 50 people total, including the youth, and had a great time. I want to thank Maryke, Abbey, Sarah, and Jim for working in the kitchen during the event. They served up a delicious pasta meal for everyone to enjoy. Rachel and Todd helped with decorating the Fellowship Hall, alongside the kids. Greg was responsible for setting up the sound system and lights. And of course, the Youth did a great job taking orders, delivering food, and entertaining the assembled masses. I have to be honest - it took me a couple days to recover! We're looking forward to the next time we do it!

We were able to raise some money for our mission trip to Charleston, West Virginia this June. So far, we have 14 kids confirmed as going - this is the largest group we have had in a long time! I'm excited to see everyone getting along, serving God, and having fun at the same time. That is what our church and by extension, our Youth Group, represents - it's a safe place for you to be yourself in the service of God and others. It truly is a place for us to grow.

God Bless,
Scott

United Church of Christ Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within

Wider Church Ministries. Special giving envelopes can be found in the pew pockets during the month of March. If donating by check, please make it out to RUCC and mark in the memo line, "OGHS".

Christian Education Board

Scholarship applications available!

Our 2024 scholarship applications are available in the office for eligible high school seniors and for 2nd year college students! Applicants or applicant's immediate families must be members of our church. Scholarships are awarded in May, so applications should be in the office for the Christian Education Board to review by April 1st.

March Lenten Program: Holy Week Walk March 10!

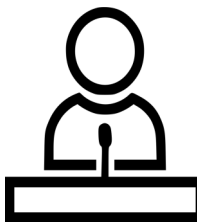


Come join our intergenerational Lenten program as we visit the Garden of Gethsemane, the Last Supper Table, Jesus' Tomb and more! At each station a visitor

from the past will tell the story of Jesus' last days! Our Easter celebration will have more meaning if we see the story behind it! This is a program for all, held on March 10th from 2:00-4:00. Come join us on this meaningful journey!

The following cast of characters hope to see you on March 10: Marilyn Scarbrough, Dawn Schilling, Brenda Lindsey, Jim Schilling, Pastor Allan, Tim Hnath, Bruce Kucharski, Emily Lane and Kate Lane. Maryke Bard, Karen Kiska and Sarah Schroeter will be preparing a traveler's snack for you and Greg Gerber will be our traveling musician. Sign up for this journey in the Fellowship Hall.

Looking Ahead, Speaker Series Program



Kuame Ajamu will be visiting us on April 14th to talk about his journey as a man who was exonerated 39 years after being wrongfully accused. Kuame now heads up the witness to innocence project.

We welcome him as part of our Christian Education speaker series! Questions and refreshments will follow his talk about his journey!

Online Bible Study Resources for all ages:

You can add your e-mail to our RUCC subscription of *RightNow Media*. Go to our website at richfielducc.org and on the top right, you will see a button for RightNow Media-Register Today. You can also find it in the Learn section of the website. The button will take you to their website to register.

Super Bowl Square Fundraiser

Congratulations to our winners!

Dale Stanley: 1st quarter

Rosemarie Sprague: 2nd AND 3rd quarter

Tammy Fay: end of game

The remaining \$250 will be donated to an organization or project to be determined by the WPM Board. Thank you to all who participated.



Meetings This Month

*Christian Education Board

Sunday, March 3 @ 11:45 am

*Stewardship & Administration Board

Wednesday, March 6 @ 7:00 pm

*Worship and Parish Ministry Board

Monday, March 11 @ 5:00 pm.

*Church Council

Monday, March 11 @ 7:00 pm

Retirement Village Board March 14 @ 7 pm

Men's Discussion Group

Every Wednesday morning 7:00 am in the Gathering Room

***Meetings available to join via ZOOM**



March 3: The Youth Group

Lew Monegan

Jim Holan

Bud Snow

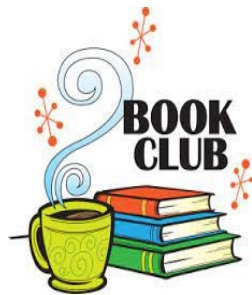
Dave Hakos

Book Club

Book Club will meet on

Monday, March 25, at 6:00 pm.

The selected reading for March is "Lesson in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.



Senior Citizens

Mark your Calendar

Wednesday, April 10

Revere High School Senior Citizens Brunch and the special preview of the Revere Player's spring musical, Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella".

This is a free event open to all area senior citizens. The brunch will be served starting at 9:00 am in the high school cafeteria and the musical will begin at 10:00 in the auditorium.

*RSVP to help plan for the brunch supplies:
330-659-4750 or kls1650@roadrunner.com*

March Birthdays

3/1 Amanda Hart

3/1 Carter Aquino

3/2 Ruby Kover

3/3 Stacy Westphal

3/4 Jamie Brown

3/4 Mary Patrick

3/6 Angie Kuczmariski

3/6 Stephanie Treubig

3/6 Robert Vacco

3/7 J.J. Schweikert

3/9 Mackenzie Emilio

3/10 Evan Wohlabaugh

3/11 David Wohlabaugh

3/11 David Wohlabaugh, Jr

3/17 Jack Miller

3/19 Marty Cinadr

3/20 Larry Cholensky

3/20 Sam Gerber

3/20 Rebecca Cinadr

3/20 Brad Cinadr

3/22 Amanda Scarbrough

3/22 Claude Petek

3/23 Rita Johnson

3/23 Marilyn Scarbrough

3/23 Jeffrey Treubig

3/23 Katrin Miller

3/24 Marc Ahlborg

3/24 Erin Orzech

3/26 Michal Swan

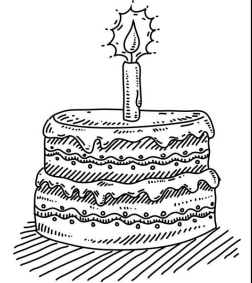
3/28 Terry Bard

3/30 Scott Supelak

3/31 Aaron Remec

March Anniversaries

3/26 Jim and Dawn Schilling



The Gathering Room Gallery

Featuring the artwork of Tom Barker



Stop in the Gathering Room Gallery and view the paintings of Tom Barker.

Congratulations

to Noah Lane who recently came first out of 28 competitors at a United States Chess Federation event.

Noah went 4-0 and was tied with another player for first place, but a

complicated computer algorithm found that Noah had had a harder path to victory, and so he was awarded the first place prize. Way to go, Noah!



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of Christ**

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Men's Discussion Group Meetings
each Wednesday at 7-8 am at RUCC

March Activities

March 3: 8:00 am Worship Service in-building / **Worship service** in-building and online at **10:15 am** / CE Board meets after worship service.

March 6: S&A Board meets at 7:00 pm

March 9: CE Board at 9:00 am to set-up of Lenten program

March 10: Worship service in-building and online at 10:15 am / Adult Sunday school at 9:15 am / Lenten program from 2:00-4:00 pm

March 11: WPM Board meets at 6:45 pm Church Council meets at 7:00 pm

March 14: The Retirement Village Board meets at 7:00 pm

March 17: Worship Service at 10:15 am in-building and online at 10:15 am / Adult Sunday School at 9:15 am

March 18: Election Board meeting at 6:30 / Bake Sale pricing and set-up at 6:30 pm

March 19: Election Day / Election Day Bake Sale

March 24: Palm Sunday: Worship Service at 10:15 am in-building and online at 10:15 am

March 25: Book Club meets at 6:00 pm

March 29: Good Friday service at 7:00 pm

March 31: Easter Sunday: 8:00 am Worship Service in-building / **Easter Brunch** between services in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Worship service in-building and online

